

THE CORSET WORKERS' STRIKE

THE STRIKE at Warner Bros. factory is of larger proportions than any that have preceded it, during the existing labor disturbance, and ties up one of Bridgeport's largest and most prosperous industries.

Fortunately, the policy of this concern has always been entirely modern with respect to the treatment of employees, and it has never been the victim of the idea that employers are too important to bargain with the employees on even terms.

In his day the late Dr. I. DeVer Warner made this plant a model among the industries of its kind, and was a pioneer in the establishment of rest rooms, and social centers for the company's workers, as is witnessed by the Seaside Institute, a handsome and comfortable building which for many years has served as a model for other institutions of the same kind.

The attitude of DeVer H. Warner, as expressed today in The Farmer is conciliatory, and suggests that the difficulty may be settled as promptly and as amicably, as the differences between the Remington Arms and Ammunition Company and its employees.

The crux of the demand of the workers is for an eight hour day. There are some minor demands for the mitigation of fines and penalties connected with piece work tasks, and some difficulties relating to the division of the hours of labor. These latter matters seem to be connected with the 50 hour week, and would automatically disappear with the eight hour day.

It seems to The Farmer, for reasons that are based on study and long observation, that the eight hour day is a fact in Bridgeport, and that no large employer can successfully resist the movement.

Since the Remington Arms and Ammunition Company adopted the eight hour basis, the question has not been as of force between employers and workers, but a question of economics, of competition between employers to keep the best labor.

It may be taken for granted that no large concern employing a large number of men and women can continue beside other large concerns under an eight hour day, and profitably maintain a nine or ten hour day.

The workers of both kinds of concerns meet everywhere, on the street, in the lodge room, at church, in their several homes. They exchange views on working conditions. Sometimes girls employed on a ten hour basis may have brothers and sisters working the eight hour day. "Why don't you get into our shop?" asks one of the other. Thus there is a constant effort on the part of those who work the longer hours, to obtain the shorter, an effort that must, within a brief time, give the eight hour shop the pick of the labor market, and this process of sapping labor power always will be costly and annoying to the enterprise that suffers it, and in the long run will be disastrous.

Everybody will hope that the difficulties in the Warner Bros. factory may be early settled, for the benefit of all concerned. A strike is a harsh remedy, wasteful and costly. It is seldom resorted to by a large body of workers even in August weather, unless those concerned in it have firmly made up their minds that they ought to have more advantageous conditions of employment.

The meaning of this strike is the same. The workers seeking better conditions in other Bridgeport plants, desire the same conditions for themselves.

The strike is an ordinary expression of ordinary human nature. The trade goes to the store that offers the same goods for less money. Labor seeks the employer that offers an eight hour day and the same pay, over one who offers a ten hour, or a nine, or an eight and a half hour day.

This always has been human nature, and it always will be. The Farmer repeats that the eight hour day seems inevitable in Bridgeport. It believes that those who adopt it soonest will get the most profit from it.

THREE YEARS OF AN HONEST PHILADELPHIA GOVERNMENT

UNDER THE HEAD of "Business, Not Politics," Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg, reviews three years of municipal administration, during which a hundred million dollars were expended "without waste or graft," and \$5,000,000 were saved.

This prodigy of performance took place in Philadelphia, a city which of all others has led in the race to show how public money could be most lavishly, extravagantly and wastefully expended.

During these years, in which Mayor Blankenburg has been at the helm, the average fire loss decreased, although the fire department, with respect to apparatus and equipment, is in a state of advanced decay; which is to say, the yearly expenditure for the department is 83 cents as against \$2.43 per capita in San Francisco.

The cost of administering the water supply—a municipal enterprise—has decreased a half million a year, although the efficiency of the service has been greatly increased.

The road department has been rescued from the tender ignorance of political hacks and pensioners, and now embraces more than 200 persons who have technical training and experience in road building.

The gas and electric light, not being in municipal hands, does not show the same results as the water, but the citizens are getting what they buy, owing to the improved inspection.

It used to be the custom for the inspectors to wait about until the candle power came up to the company's contract agreements, as Mayor Blankenburg observes, in the message which furnishes the base for these remarks.

In the purchase of coal the administration has checked a source of waste. The city consumed less coal in 1914 than it used in 1910, a saving large enough for the period of the administration to give each of 50,000 families three tons of coal.

The city gets full weight, full quality, and the coal is used by the city and does not decrease the household expense of municipal employees.

The issues of life and death are more bound up in honest and efficient government than many persons suppose. Take this simple, but eloquent statement, from the message:

"Death rate of children under one year:
"In 1907, before Blankenburg was mayor.....166 per 1,000"

"In 1914122 per 1,000"
And cases of contagious disease decreased something like 5,000 annually, as the result of more efficient medical inspection and superior sanitation.

Five million dollars is a great deal of money. The mere saving of it, is not so important, but it is very important. The proper and reasonable use of a hundred million dollars is the big triumph of the Blankenburg administration.

Mayor Blankenburg devotes three pages of his brief message to showing what \$5,000,000 means to ordinary people. It would erect 2,500 two-story houses at \$2,000 each.

It would pay six months' rent for 46,000 homes, at a yearly rental of \$216.

It would employ 76,920 men at \$2.50 a day, for one month.

It would meet a minimum wage charge of \$9 per week, per woman, for 128,208, for one month.

It would buy a hundred million five cent loaves of bread or 60 loaves for every human being in Philadelphia.

A strong, common sense man is this Mayor Blankenburg, with a keen eye for progress, a keener for public honesty, and fighting spirit which mows down civic wrong as a machine gun mows down the soldiers of the enemy.

THE LYNCHING OF LEO FRANK

GREATER MISFORTUNE could scarcely have overtaken Leo Frank were his guilt of the crimmest hue. He fought for life with an almost heroic energy, and gained only a prolongation of the agony which attended his intense wish to live.

No fate imposed by modern states for the crime of murder, would have brought so much suffering to Frank, as he imposed upon himself. The lingering terror of the trial, comes to all who are accused of capital offenses. The horror of the sentence is usual. But to be sentenced, to be again and again reprieved, to wait in the shadow of the gallows through lingering months; to have sentence commuted; to be almost slain by a fellow convict; to come out of the valley of the shadow, and then, with the desire to live gripping every muscle, nerve and brain cell, to be dragged from prison, to die at last by mob justice, surely, this is more of grisly torment than one man's share.

Was Frank guilty? Was he innocent? There have been innocents who have suffered as much, like the Abbe Grandier and Joan of Arc, and many others; much suffering at the hands of men is not a proof of guilt. In Frank's case it is merely proof that this southern community had an overwhelming belief that Frank was guilty.

Capt. Hobson, Merrimac Hero, Now Waging War on Demon Rum

Richmond Pearson Hobson, who sank a clipper ship in the mouth of Santiago harbor during the Spanish-American war, was born at Greensboro, Ala., 45 years ago today. On the strength of his exploit the hero of the Merrimac, having retired from the navy, was elected to Congress from Alabama in 1906, and served continuously in the House until last March, when he retired, having been defeated in his race for reelection. Since his retirement from public life Mr. Hobson has devoted most of his attention to waging a war on the rum demon. In a recent address he called upon President Wilson to banish liquor from the White House, and he also advocated a congressional appropriation to carry on a world-war against alcohol as soon as the European war is over. Although a friend of peace and an advocate of the amicable settlement of international disputes, Mr. Hobson has long favored a greater navy for the United States, and has held up the "Japan peril" as a menace to the American republic.

As a student at the Annapolis Naval Academy Hobson graduated at the head of his class, although his youngest member. He is described as an earnest, studious, quiet lad, and very much of a "grind." This naturally made him unpopular with some of the other boys, and he came in for much hazing in his first year. It is related that one of the upper classmen used all his ingenuity for several weeks, on every possible occasion, to force the Alabama youth to declare that white was black. Young Hobson stood this persecution as long as he was able, but one day he revolted, and, with clenched fists and flashing eyes, shouted: "I do not desire, neither will I tolerate, any more of your scurrilous contumacy, sir."

This is also the birthday anniversary of Senator Robert F. Broussard of Louisiana, who entered the Senate last March after serving 16 years in the House. Senator Broussard—who, like many other Louisiana statesmen, past and present, is of French descent—was born on a plantation near New Iberia, La., 51 years ago today. Among his constituents he is known as "Cousin Bob," and the French Creoles of Louisiana are firmly convinced that he is the foremost Solon of the twentieth century.

Pettie, Former Newsdealer, Is Visitor In Town

Charles F. Pettie, for many years a wholesale newsdealer in this city, was a visitor here yesterday. Mr. Pettie is now engaged in the real estate business in Los Angeles, Cal. He formerly conducted the Herald newspaper in Fairfield avenue a business which he purchased from James Bradshaw, circulation manager of The Farmer who had established the business.

The store is now conducted by Joseph Simons. Mr. Pettie for many years was a local agent of all the New York newspapers as well as many prominent magazines and periodicals. He left Bridgeport about five years ago and has since made his home in California.

Mr. Pettie was well known in the business center. He took a trip to Baltimore Sunday and yesterday sailed for Los Angeles from New York via Panama Canal.

A device invented by the Italian engineer Quarini to drive torpedoes out of their course and explode them, will be tried out by the allied fleets.

Canada will reap the greatest harvest in its history. The wheat yield of the West will be close upon 300,000,000 bushels.

Seven German steamers taken over by Great Britain have been given British names all beginning with "Hum."

The Ford Motor Car Co. is distributing 308,213 checks, each for \$50, one to each purchaser of a car during 1915.

KEPPLER, WROTH AT BRIBE TALK, DENIES CHARGE

Dares Anybody to Say He Is "Mr. K." Mentioned in German Letters

New York, Aug. 17.—J. J. Keppler, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, denied emphatically yesterday that he is the "friend K." spoken of in a letter from C. Dencker, presumably a German agent, to Mr. Marlow at the German Embassy as willing to talk over the opportunity for strikes in munitions factories in this country.

Mr. Keppler who organized the arms strikes at Bridgeport, Conn., and is now active in securing an eight-hour day for machinists here and in New Jersey further fortified his denial with assurances that not only had he not been involved in the extensive German plans revealed by the publication of letters and memoranda, but he never even had been approached on the question of aiding Germany by tying up American factories. His motive, Mr. Keppler said, was purely a business one; to seize the opportunity offered by the war to obtain an eight-hour day for machinists.

"Let me have a good look at that letter," said Mr. Keppler, when a reporter showed him copies of the articles in which the correspondence was published yesterday morning. "No," he continued, after reading both papers, "I am not the 'K' referred to. I dare anybody to say or print that I stand for Keppler—the Keppler who was in Bridgeport."

"I am in no way concerned in this matter, and it interests me only as a matter of news. A week ago a reporter asked me if I knew 'Dencker,' who signed the letter, or 'Marlow' to whom it was sent. I could not recall having met or heard of them, nor of 'C. W. McLane,' of Detroit, who wrote Dencker that a strike could be started in the automobile industry there. Since then I have tried to find out who they are, but without success. They certainly are not connected with any labor organization I know anything about."

"No," he said, "I have come to the wrong party to find out anything about German activities in connection with labor or anything else. At no time have I even been approached in connection with starting strikes to hamper shipments of munitions or anything else to the Allies—or to the Germans either, for that matter. There is no reason why I should be," said Mr. Keppler, leaning forward in his chair and punching out his remarks with his fist. "Suppose I got a million dollars right from the Kaiser to do it. The minute the employers granted the demand for an eight-hour day, I couldn't keep them from going back to work. Nothing could keep them from doing it if their demands were granted. They can make too much money working to stay out a minute longer than they have to, and living is high now."

"I want to make this plain; all I'm mixed up with is the eight-hour day for machinists. I want that, and I want it bad, but that's all. Just to show you how foolish it is to say that I am 'K' or anybody else working for Germany or anything else but organizing labor, let me tell you how the Bridgeport strikes started."

"On July 1 I sent to all the labor leaders in the East, including a lot in Canada, a letter reminding them that the International Association of Machinists had decided to bond all its members to get an eight-hour day for machinists. I told them that in my opinion the situation created here by big war orders made this the time to strike, and the factories had had those orders—and had to fill them quick—the most vulnerable spot to strike."

"I pointed out that we could get an eight-hour day for machinists, working in such plants much easier than anywhere else, much easier now than at any other time—and that having got it for them, we could then set it for all machinists in all kinds of plants. That was before I had been to Bridgeport."

"Then I went to Bridgeport on an entirely different matter, without any idea of starting a strike at all. I saw conditions there, saw what could be done there, and became convinced that there was a chance right to my hand to do something really big. Just about that time, when we were formulating demands and looking things over, I heard that Major Walter G. Penfield, plant manager of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., had said that he would not treat with the machinists at all unless they were out on strike. I decided to oblige him, and I called the strike."

"That's how the Bridgeport strike started. It was purely a matter of business with me—and so are all the other strikes we have called since my call. My job is to get an eight-hour day for the machinists. The war has given me an opening, and you bet I'm going to take it. As for this German business—nothing to it."

PANAMA CHARGES LAND COMMISSION HAS BEEN UNFAIR

Panama, Aug. 17.—Although the Joint Land Commission has suspended sitting because of the absence of one of the American commissioners, bitter attacks upon the American members of the commission and officials of the Panama Canal appear almost daily in the Panama newspapers. Charges of unfairness and prejudice against the Panama Canal appear almost daily in the Panama newspapers. Charges of unfairness and prejudice against the Panama Canal appear almost daily in the Panama newspapers.

The recent troubles of the land commission were due to the inability of the two Panama commissioners to reach agreements on amounts to be given to certain claimants. The attacks upon the American officials are directed chiefly against Frank Feuille, special attorney in charge of the claims, although Governor Goethals also is receiving a share of the attack.

For some time it has been the policy of the Panama members of the commission to be as liberal as possible with the claimants while on the other hand the two American members have been inclined to closely examine all claims brought before the commission.

The D. M. Read Co.
Established 1857

Commencing Tuesday, September seventh, the store will close every day at six o'clock. An early notice is given of this change in shopping hours as it is thought best for all to become accustomed to the idea. It will be welcome news to the great army of store employees and it is not thought that the curtailment of the Saturday shopping hours will result in any inconvenience to customers. Purchases made in the evening are often effected hurriedly and are unsatisfactory. To shop leisurely during the daytime is the most satisfactory way.

All Summer Gowns; of Every Description are to be closed out.

Those that were \$7.50 to \$12.50. Pretty gowns for afternoon and evening wear, white and figured organdies, swisses, rice voiles, plain voiles and lawns, daintily trimmed with lace or embroidery, with garnitures of ribbon in the way of girdles or sashes.

now \$5.00

Those that were \$5.00 to \$7.50. Tailored Linens in white and a few colors, fancy and plain voiles.

now \$3.50

Those that were \$3.50 and \$4.00. Voiles and Tissues prettily made up for house and porch wear afternoons.

now \$2.00

Second floor.

Dress Forms

All styles to be closed out.

These convenient forms which are necessary alike to the professional modiste and the woman who makes her own gowns at home, are all to be sold at reduced prices.

Pneumatic Dress Forms, were \$14.00 for \$11.00
Four in size 42, one at 46, one at 50

Adjustable Dress Forms, two were \$16.50 for \$12.50
one was \$12.50 for \$9.50
one was \$6.50 for \$5.00

One Collapsible Form, was \$9.50 for \$8.00

Bust Forms, sizes 36, 38 and 40, were \$1.00 for .50
Three sizes, 34, 40, and 42, were 50 cts for .25

Pattern Department, main floor.

Stylish Belts, 50 cts.

Of white kid, with bands of black suede or patent leather, also bands of pale blue, pink, green and lavender. Very pretty to wear with tailored white skirts and blouses.

Leather Goods Section, main floor.

The D. M. Read Company.
RADFORD B. SMITH

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OUR WEDNESDAY SALE

At 3 3/4c—Remnants unbleached muslin.
At 4 3/4c—Remnants bleached muslin.
At 8 1/2c—Good bed ticking.
At 17c—5-4 table oil cloth.
At 4c—Dozen wardrobe hooks.
At 8c—Carpenter's two foot rules.
At 15c, 7 for \$1.00—Very white cotton batting.
At 7c—Kazoos whistles for the boys.

In this they have been upheld by the American canal officials. It is frequently pointed out by Mr. Feuille that the United States is already very liberal with claimants but is decidedly opposed to paying twice for the same tract of land to which the claimant has a doubtful title.

The relations of the canal officials and the two American commissioners are also somewhat strained. A recent award in which the two commissioners agreed with the Panamanian members was resented by the canal officials and incidentally brought down upon the American members a rebuke from Secretary of State Lansing. This award, while in itself unimportant, sets a precedent upon which the price of lands in the immediate vicinity would be established. It would mean the payment of approximately \$2,000,000 more for the land than its present market value.

Governor Goethals has asked Secretary of War Garrison to endeavor to have the Department of State arrange with Panama for some other means of settling land claims. He advocates the organization of a special claims court to sit in the Canal Zone from which claimants could appeal to a higher court in the United States. Diplomatic difficulties, however, confront this plan.

The Reading Railroad tug Lackawanna, was rammed and sunk near Vineyard Haven, Mass., by the barge Nanticoke, in tow.

Despatches from Constantinople stated that Gen. Liman von Sanders, German commander at the Dardanelles, has been recalled by Germany.

Advices received at Amsterdam from Berlin reports that it is rumored that the resignation of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg is imminent.

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